

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the addition is performed directly after fermentation.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein pH of the cells prior to the addition of the metal salt is equal to or lower than pH 7.
6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the metal salt is potassium or sodium salt.
7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 6, in which the salt is potassium- or sodium phosphate or acetate.
8. (Cancelled)
- 9-10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the metal salt is an alkali metal salt or an alkali earth metal salt.
12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein the peptide recombinant growth hormone is recombinant human growth hormone.
13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 22, wherein the addition is performed directly after fermentation.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 22, wherein the metal salt is an alkali metal salt or an alkali earth metal salt.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 22, wherein the metal salt is potassium or sodium salt.

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 16 in which the salt is potassium- or sodium phosphate or acetate.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 22, wherein the peptide is growth hormone.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 22, wherein the peptide is human growth hormone.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) Method for the reduction of the amount of trisulfides in the production of recombinant growth hormone, comprising fermenting cells to produce recombinant growth hormone, wherein a metal salt is added during or after the fermentation step, prior to growth hormone isolation.

22. (Currently Amended) Method for the reduction of the amount of trisulfides in the production of recombinant peptides, comprising fermenting cells to produce recombinant peptides, wherein a metal salt is added during or after the fermentation step prior to peptide isolation, and wherein the pH of the cells prior to the addition of the metal salt during and after fermentation is less than or equal to 7.